



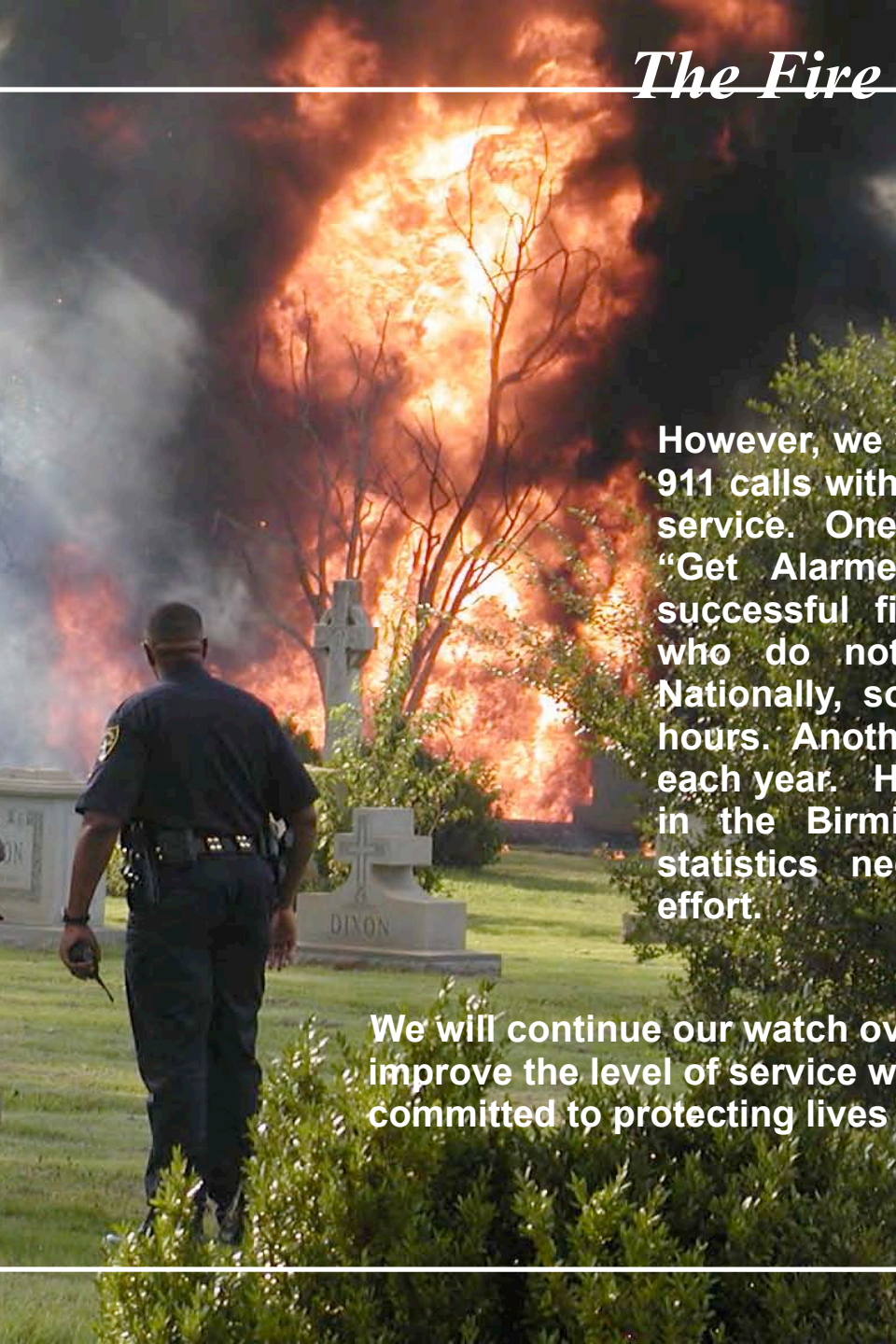
Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department

Greetings from the Fire Chief



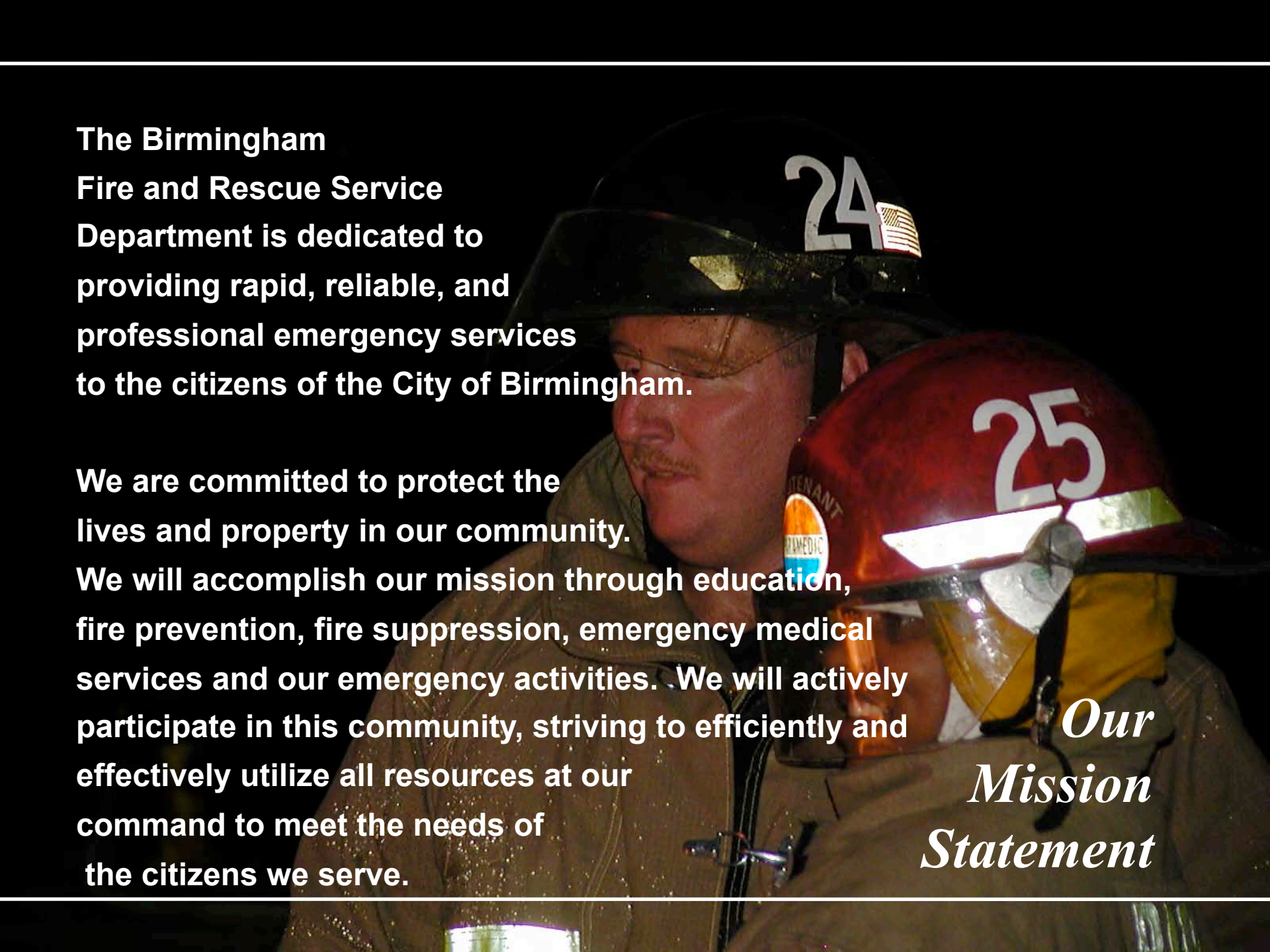
On behalf of The Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department, I take pleasure in introducing our Annual Report for 2003. This past year was a great, yet challenging year for the fire service. The deployment of troops to the Middle East continued to adversely impact our personnel staffing minimums, as was the case for many cities across the country.

DWAYNE A. MURRAY
Fire Chief



However, we were still able to render emergency service to 911 calls without any decline in response time or quality of service. One of our major thrusts this year was again the “Get Alarmed Birmingham!” Campaign. This highly successful fire prevention campaign targets individuals who do not have smoke detectors in their homes. Nationally, someone is killed in a home fire every 2 1/2 hours. Another 20,000 people are injured in home fires each year. Half of the fire-related deaths in Alabama occur in the Birmingham Metropolitan area. These *alarming* statistics necessitated this community fire prevention effort.

We will continue our watch over the citizens of Birmingham, endeavoring to improve the level of service we provide to them on a daily basis. We remain committed to protecting lives and property in our community and delivering “Excellence through Service”.



The Birmingham
Fire and Rescue Service
Department is dedicated to
providing rapid, reliable, and
professional emergency services
to the citizens of the City of Birmingham.

We are committed to protect the
lives and property in our community.
We will accomplish our mission through education,
fire prevention, fire suppression, emergency medical
services and our emergency activities. We will actively
participate in this community, striving to efficiently and
effectively utilize all resources at our
command to meet the needs of
the citizens we serve.

*Our
Mission
Statement*

Statement of Purpose

The Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department is dedicated to professionalism and committed to excellence by providing the broadest level of services possible to insure quality public service to the citizens we serve.

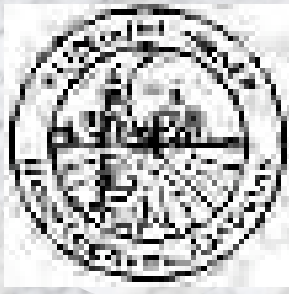


Philosophy

- **Improve communications at all levels within the organization**
- **Promote improving working relations among co-workers while valuing differences**
- **Assure a zero tolerance policy for workplace violence, harassment and discrimination**
- **Increase the operational effectiveness and efficiency of each division/ bureau within the department**
- **Increase public relations, awareness and public education regarding the department's contributions to the community**
- **Promote the health and wellness of all fire service personnel**
- **Establish the policies necessary to accomplish the greatest benefit for the greatest number of people**
- **Establish positive working relations with all departments within the City of Birmingham**



Bernard Kincaid
Mayor



~Birmingham City Council~

Sitting:

District 6 - Mrs. Carole Smitherman - *President Pro-Tem*

District 2 - Ms. Carol Reynolds

District 4 - Mrs. Gwen P. Sykes, District 3 - Ms. Valerie A. Abbott

Standing:

District 7 - Mr. Bertram D. Miller, District 9 - Mr. Roderick Royal

District 5 - Mr. Elias Hendricks, Jr.

District 8 - Mr. Lee Wendell Loder, *President*

District 1 - Mr. Joel Montgomery



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



DWAYNE A. MURRAY
FIRE CHIEF



RICHARD E. BRASFIELD
EXECUTIVE DEPUTY
CHIEF

LABOR RELATIONS
BUDGET AND FINANCE
POLICY AND PROCEDURE DEVELOPMENT



IVOR J. BROOKS
ASSISTANT CHIEF

LOGISTICS SECTION
OPERATIONS
AIRPORT DIVISION



CARL J. HARPER
ASSISTANT CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
STAFF
STRATEGIC PLANNING
COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION



ALFRED A. BONNER
ASSISTANT CHIEF

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION
SYSTEMS
ARSON/FIRE PREVENTION
DIVISION



DAVID NATHAN
ASSISTANT CHIEF

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
QA/QI
FIRE TRAINING/ SAFETY DIVISION



EXECUTIVE DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

Richard E. Brasfield

assisting the Fire Chief in planning, directing, and coordinating the overall operations of the Fire and Rescue Service Department.

In the absence of the Fire Chief, the Executive Deputy Chief is entrusted with the overall operations of the Department. Therefore, it is paramount that the Deputy be abreast of all facets of the department's operations, including but not limited to budget preparations, legal matters, staffing configurations, promotional processes, department expenditures, purchase requests, and emergency service delivery.

The Deputy Chief is responsible for providing the support necessary to maintain the vision, mission, and organizational philosophy that is established by the Fire Chief and authorized by the Mayor and Council of the City of Birmingham. This position requires that consistent recognition of the varied aspects of fire service management has significantly modified our approach to fire and medical service delivery. In addition to ensuring that our organization continues to meet the dynamic evolutions and challenges that confront us in the emergency service delivery arena, our organization is obligated to provide the populace and governmental agencies of Birmingham with the necessary leadership, interpersonal networking, cooperation and support to meet the demands of our customers.

Executive Deputy Fire Chief

Essential components of an organization are leadership, support, communication, and understanding. These elements are required and must come from all levels of our organization to assure the successful outcome regarding the service it provides.

We, as an organized body within the fire, rescue and medical service structure, have accepted the challenge of developing a sound management process to proactively address the inevitable changes that actively confront our profession today. The constant growth of emergency medical responses has made it necessary for our organization to take on a consistent analytical approach as to who we are and what we need to do to remain in the forefront of our profession. Emergency medical service consumes more than seventy-five percent of our department's emergency service operations. This activity is projected to continually grow. We must keep pace with that growth, as well as other areas of our profession, in order to truly realize and accomplish the goals that we have established. We can only reach the goals established by our organization and the Fire Service in general by committing ourselves to the appointed task, necessary training and education, maintaining a state of readiness and progressive organizational development to ensure success for the present and the future.



ADMINISTRATION

Assistant Chief Carl J. Harper

The Administrative Services Division provides a support system for this department in the following areas: Human Resource Management, Financial Planning, Grant Administration and Administrative Management. Human Resource Management consists of payroll, position control, processing of disciplinary actions, and the acquisition and orientation of new employees. In addition, this division oversees personnel transactions including hiring, promotion, step increases and personnel transfers.

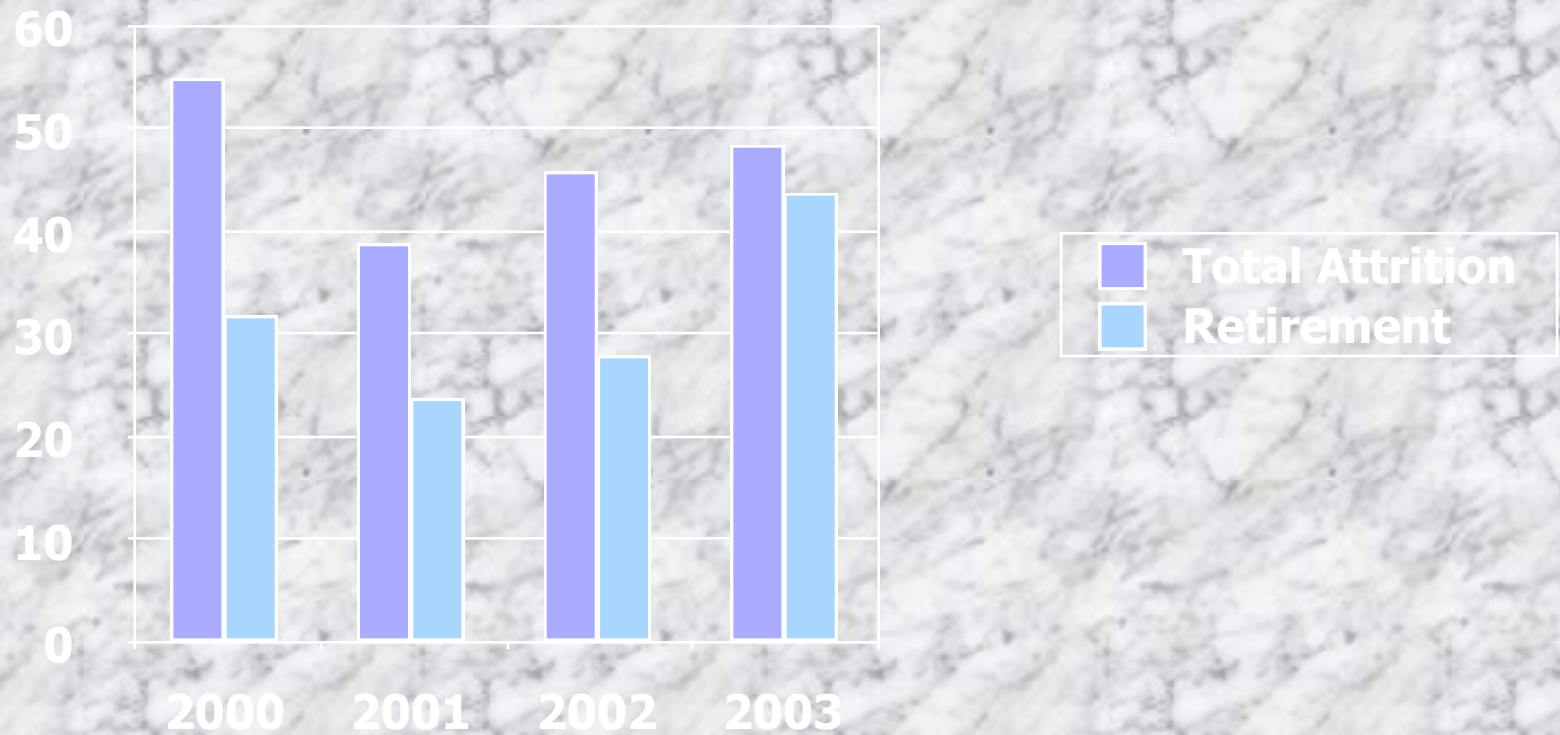


Financial Planning includes budget formulation, presentation and monitoring, forecasting of capital needs of the department, and payment for goods and services received. Administration maintains personnel files, stores and retrieves electronic personnel data, monitor and update standards, policies and procedures, and receives and disseminates information. We also directs and reviews assignments and performance of our staff. The staff plays an important role in the operation of the department. With a wide variety of clerical and analytical skills, they are able to accomplish their daily assignments from the Administrative and Operations staff. The administrative staff strives daily to live up to the department's motto: "Excellence through Service".

The City's Bond funds and grants will be a major factors in the procurement of needed equipment for the department during the coming years, as we continue to increase our ability to respond to all local service calls. We will continue to identify problem areas and implement plans and initiatives to enhance our services and the safety of our firefighters.

Congratulations to our 2003 Promotees and New Employees

DEPARTMENT'S ATTRITION





OPERATIONS

Assistant Chief Ivor J. Brooks

Fire and Rescue Service Department responded to 48,568 calls for during 2003. The men and women that worked in our thirty (30) fire d they are a part of the best fire department in the United States. Their ency calls for service including structure fires, automobile fires, brush attacks, motor vehicle accidents and special rescues.

Emergency medical Services continue to account for over 70% (about 39,080 responses) of the requests the department receives with some. The number of other calls were 9,430 for the year. The Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) Response Unit and the HAZMAT Decontamination Unit combined for over one hundred (100) responses. The Heavy Rescue Unit responded to all types of special rescue calls to include water, high angle, confined space and trench rescues.

Since Nine Eleven, homeland security has become a major issue. It necessitated our changing the way we do business while continuing to deliver the best emergency service possible. Training our personnel, keeping them aware of the threat of terrorism, and teaching them how to respond without becoming part of the problem is on-going. We continue to work with the Department of Homeland Security on establishing a regional response for the northern district of Alabama.

During 2003 the Department of Homeland Security granted the Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service a Heavy Rescue, Hazardous Material Unit and a Medium Rescue, which will be ordered early 2004 and be delivered early 2005. Each apparatus will come fully equipped, however we will be required to respond anywhere in the region to protect and serve our great state. We continue to require our personnel to train over 200 hours per firefighter per year. All of our personnel are required to attend Neighborhood Association meetings. We continue our "Get Alarmed Birmingham" program in an attempt to insure that every citizen in this city has at least one (1) working smoke detector in their home.

In 2003 Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department ordered a 100' Articulating Platform. This state of the art apparatus will aid Operations in being more effective and efficient in all types of rescue incidents. This apparatus is scheduled for delivery in August 2004. Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department also ordered and received two (2) Brush Trucks that are four-wheel drive, with pump and roll capability. A new Touch-N-Track accountability system was placed in service to enable the Incident Commander at incident scenes to keep an active account of personnel on incident scenes. Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service Department continue to stay on the cutting edge of technology, training and emergency service in an effort to sustain our mission of "Excellence through Service."





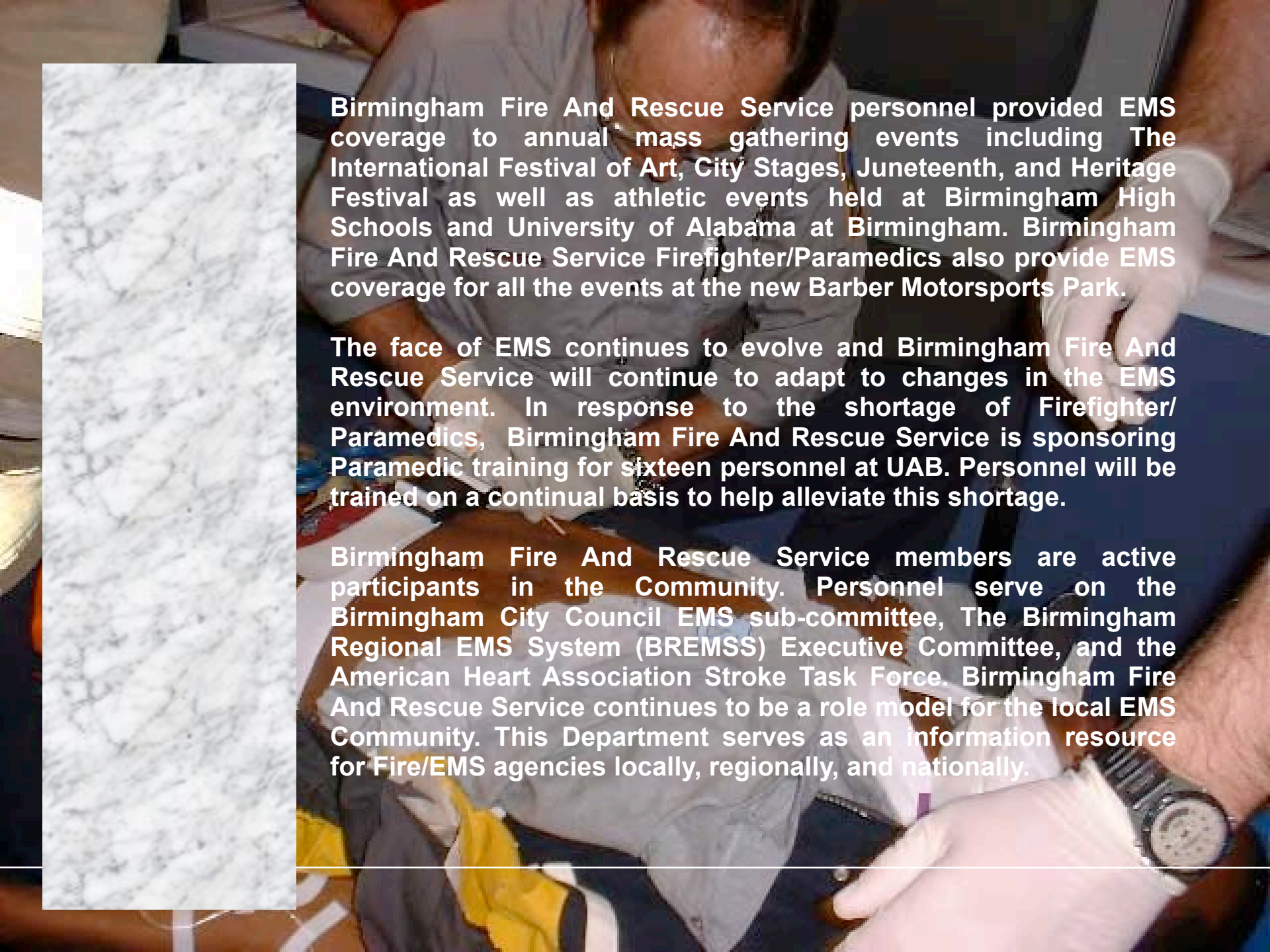
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Assistant Chief Dave A. Nathan

Providing Emergency Medical Service (EMS) to the Citizens of Birmingham continues to be the largest part of the services provided by Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service. During 2003 over 70% of all emergency responses made by Birmingham Fire and Rescue Service were to medical emergencies. The City is served by a fleet of fifteen front line Rescue Units staffed by firefighter/paramedics. Nearly 21,000 emergency patients were transported to area emergency departments during 2003 by our rescue units. Revenue generated from patient transport was \$2.8 million. These recovered costs were returned to the City's general fund. Twelve new rescue units were purchased during 2003. They replace older models which are being used as reserve rescue units. Thirteen fully equipped reserve rescue units are now available to serve during maintenance periods and at Special Events.

We recently upgraded the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) to newer models with bi-phasic technology. This state of the art technology improves the chance of successful defibrillation during treatment for cardiac arrest. Search is underway for grant funding with which to provide an AED to each of the City's Police patrol cars as well.

During 2003, firefighter/paramedics received additional training in procedures including bio-terrorism response, hazardous materials, high angle/confined space rescue, and swift water rescue. They also completed the bi-annual credentialing process required by the Alabama Department of Public Health.



Birmingham Fire And Rescue Service personnel provided EMS coverage to annual mass gathering events including The International Festival of Art, City Stages, Juneteenth, and Heritage Festival as well as athletic events held at Birmingham High Schools and University of Alabama at Birmingham. Birmingham Fire And Rescue Service Firefighter/Paramedics also provide EMS coverage for all the events at the new Barber Motorsports Park.

The face of EMS continues to evolve and Birmingham Fire And Rescue Service will continue to adapt to changes in the EMS environment. In response to the shortage of Firefighter/Paramedics, Birmingham Fire And Rescue Service is sponsoring Paramedic training for sixteen personnel at UAB. Personnel will be trained on a continual basis to help alleviate this shortage.

Birmingham Fire And Rescue Service members are active participants in the Community. Personnel serve on the Birmingham City Council EMS sub-committee, The Birmingham Regional EMS System (BREMSS) Executive Committee, and the American Heart Association Stroke Task Force. Birmingham Fire And Rescue Service continues to be a role model for the local EMS Community. This Department serves as an information resource for Fire/EMS agencies locally, regionally, and nationally.



TECHNICAL SERVICES & FIRE PREVENTION

Assistant Chief Alfred A. Bonner

Technical Services is responsible for providing the Fire Chief with much needed technical information about computers, software programs, wireless and fiber communications. The department has continuously worked with the Information Management Service Department to keep pace with the ever changing technology and to up-grade as many systems as possible.

The City of Birmingham has entered into a contract agreement for the purchase of a new 800 MHz radio system. In order to accommodate the radio system, the city is putting in place a number of new communication towers. This system will be utilized for Public Safety (Police and Fire) with all of the fire department radios being intrinsically safe.

There are plans to utilize funds, which will be obtained through an agreement with the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT). These funds will assist us in equipping all of the department's apparatus with Automatic Vehicle Locators (AVL). This will be accomplished with the cooperation of the City of Birmingham's Traffic Engineering Department and Information Management Service Department. This project is expected to be completed by June 2004.

The Fire Prevention Division is headed by a battalion chief who serves as Fire Marshal and consists of the Inspections Bureau, the Investigations Bureau, and Public Education. This division has been successful in establishing a database (within SunPro) of all of the fire hydrants within the city of Birmingham. This division is also building a database of all businesses in the city and cataloging its inspections.

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

Battalion Chief Christopher A. Brooks
Fire Marshal

The Fire Prevention Division performs a number of mission-oriented functions. To meet these varying responsibilities, division personnel are organized into three functioning bureaus: the Inspections Bureau, the Public Education Bureau, and the Fire Investigations Bureau. Each of these bureaus impact our citizens. Even though these bureaus have separate functions, their efforts and activities are closely coordinated to achieve maximum effectiveness and efficiency.

The Inspections Bureau is primarily responsible for ensuring compliance with the city's fire prevention and life safety codes. Through plans review, continuous inspections, consultation on fire protection systems, and other related duties, adherence can be managed. The Inspections Bureau provides expert information to the public on matters concerning fire and life safety matters.

The Fire Investigation Bureau delivers technical expertise and support to operations personnel in the investigation of all fires in order to determine the cause and origin. Fire Investigation Bureau has been successful in monitoring procedures connected with the litigation of fire-related crimes. The vital information compiled from fire investigations is used to develop preventive measures concerning the hazardous practices and conditions.

The Public Education Bureau educates the public on fire and life safety matters. This bureau develops presentations and disseminates this information to the public through a variety of channels. The pertinent fire and life safety information given to the citizens of Birmingham are derived from analysis of local, state and national fire service data.

All activities of these three bureaus contribute to the overall success of the department's program designed to protect the lives and property of the citizens of Birmingham. Fire Prevention Division will continue to promote "Excellence through Service".

FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION

The Fire Prevention Division is responsible for the collection, analysis and storage of incident data reports. These reports are public records and serve as legal documentation of the department's emergency activities. The information gained from this analysis is used to identify problems and design prevention and control programs. The information is also provided to the United States Fire Administration for inclusion in the National Fire Incident Reporting System. The division provided 828 copies of incident reports this year to citizens and various agencies upon request.

Fire Prevention works with other agencies within the city such as the City's Building and Planning Department in order to provide a friendlier building process and a safer environment within the city. This process helps architects, contractors and business owners meet the code requirements necessary to keep the citizens and fire service personnel safe.

Fire Prevention serves as a liaison between the department and the Birmingham Water Works in matters related to the city's extensive fire protection water supply systems. Without a reliable and adequate water supply the fire department could not provide the service required for fire protection. Other activities that involve the assistance of the Fire Prevention Division,

as it pertains to water supply, are the coordination of hydrant maintenance, hydrant repair and replacement, resolving area wide low water volume problems, approval of new hydrant locations both public and private, promoting water system upgrades, and determining and measuring required fire flow. This year, twenty- one new fire hydrants were installed.



FIRE INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

Captain Cordell Mardis

The Fire Investigations Bureau investigates all “code one” fires occurring in the city of Birmingham. The Fire Investigations Bureau is staffed with four specially trained fire Lieutenants and one Captain. During the year, two fire investigators received Fire Inspector I certification. This allowed the Fire Investigations Bureau to assume the duty of nighttime club inspections (119 conducted) to better serve the public’s interest.

Fire Investigations is constantly seeking ways to improve service we deliver to the citizen's of Birmingham while fulfilling our goal of neutralizing fire and arson-related crimes in the community. The goal of FI for next year is to reduce incendiary fires by 10 percent and increase community relations. Throughout this process, the Fire Investigations Bureau pledges to deliver “Excellence through Service. ”

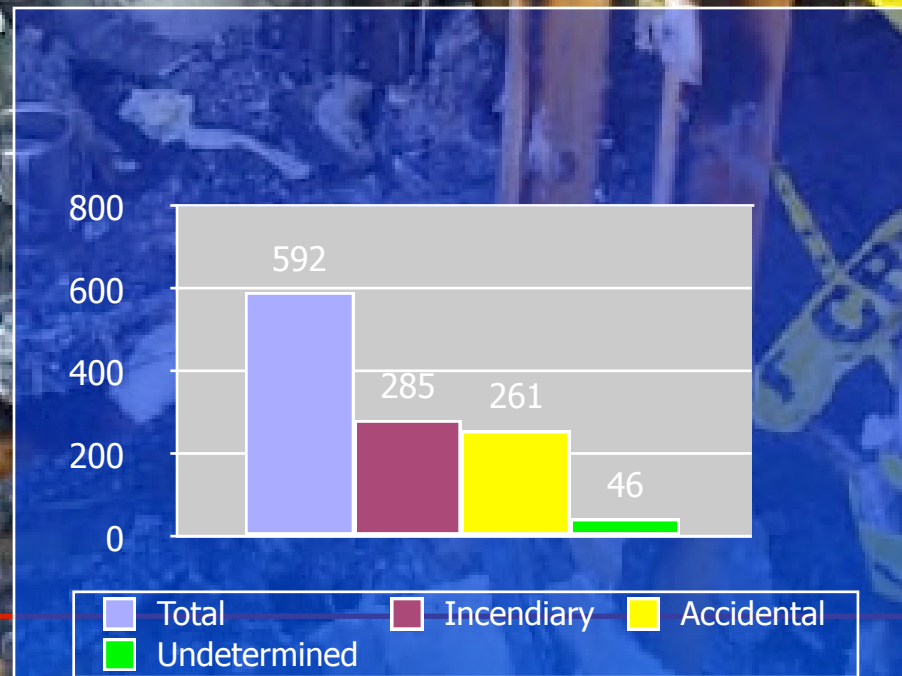
Some of the statistics for 2003 are:

- 592 incidents were investigated.
- 285, or 48% of these fires were determined to be incendiary.
- 261, or 44% of these fires were determined to be accidental.
- The cause of 46, or 8% of these fire was undetermined.
- A total of 4 citizens died in fire-related incidents.
This total marks the lowest number of fire fatalities in the history of Birmingham.
- 42 persons sustained fire or smoke-related injuries.
- Eleven (11) individuals were arrested on fire-related charges.
- Three (3) individuals were convicted on fire-related charges.
- 35 juveniles or five percent (5%) were involved in fire incidents.

FIRE INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU



Safety Inspections		119
Public Relations		615
Arrests		11
Convictions		3
Burns		42
Fatalities		4
Juvenile Involvement		35



Chief Inspector William Page

In 2003, Fire Prevention personnel conducted both existing and new construction inspections. Our personnel inspected over fourteen different occupancy types: apartment, assembly, board & care, business, detention, education healthcare, hotel industrial, lodging & rooming, storage, mercantile, day care and residential. Inspections of this type exceeded 3,300, of which 1,900 were call-in requests.

The Birmingham Public Schools were inspected. Fire drills were conducted at each school. Many businesses and high-rise buildings throughout the city had drills as well. Due to the loss of life in other states, inspections were conducted at a total of 119 nightclubs where each violation discovered was documented and corrected. Inspections were conducted at more than 430 occupancies relating to lodging and providing assistance to the city's youngest and oldest citizens. In conjunction with other state agencies and realizing the need to monitor the use of hazardous materials, the Fire Prevention Bureau recorded 88 inspections of industrial occupancies. Vital Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) information has been gathered as a result. Over 650 existing business and mercantile occupancies were inspected with an additional 159 inspections conducted as a result of liquor licenses requests. A total of 416 assembly occupancies were inspected.

The Bureau issued 26 special event permits. As of October 2003, additional information and special licenses are being obtained for all pyrotechnics and fireworks events. Working in conjunction with Birmingham Water Works Board, the Fire Prevention Bureau issued 30-hydrant use permit, which allows contractors and special use privileges to those who hold the permit. In addition to the new hydrants added this year, more than 40 Special Connection Agreements were made which provides supplementary water mains and hydrants for fire service use.

Over 1,700 specialized technical inspections, which include fire mains, sprinklers, fire alarms, hoods, AS T /US T installations, were made during the 2003-year. Life Safety plans review; Fire Department access, hydrant placement as well as renovation/remodeling reviews exceeded 189 plans from the Senior Fire Inspector's offices and almost 2,500 plans examined by the Fire Protection Engineer.

While there is room for improvement, the over all increase in inspection were meet. The dedicated and professional personnel of the Inspections Bureau have worked hard to meet these expectations in a continuing effort to protect life and property through the prevention of fire.



Department Grants Summary

Name of Grant	Request Summary	Amount Received
Assistance to Firefighters Grant	"Get Alarmed Birmingham" Campaign to distribute smoke detectors to the citizens of Birmingham at no cost to them	\$ 225,988.00
Homeland Security Grant	Assistance to purchase Hazardous Material Unit, Heavy Rescue Unit, Equipment for each and equipment for Medium Rescue Unit	\$ 1,072,000.00
Survivalink Firstsave AED	Medtronic Foundation purchased of 26 semi-automatic external defibrillators (SAED) to be carried by our engine companies	\$ 42,000.00
Domestic Preparedness Program	Training and equipment received from the U.S. Army Chemical and Biological Defense Command, Department of Justice	\$ 400,000.00
Livable Communities Grant	GIS software to assist in the establishment of our department's GIS program	
Assistance to Firefighters Grant	Firefighting equipment and personal protective equipment for our firefighters	\$ 381,955.00
Alabama Department of Transportation Grant	Purchase of automatic vehicle locator (AVL) system for the fire and rescue vehicles and computer-aided dispatch (CAD) upgrade	\$ 440,000.00
Metropolitan Medical Response System–Equipment Grant	Allowed for the purchase of a trailer and equipment. Additionally, 1,500 Mark I antidote kits were acquired.	\$ 65,000.00

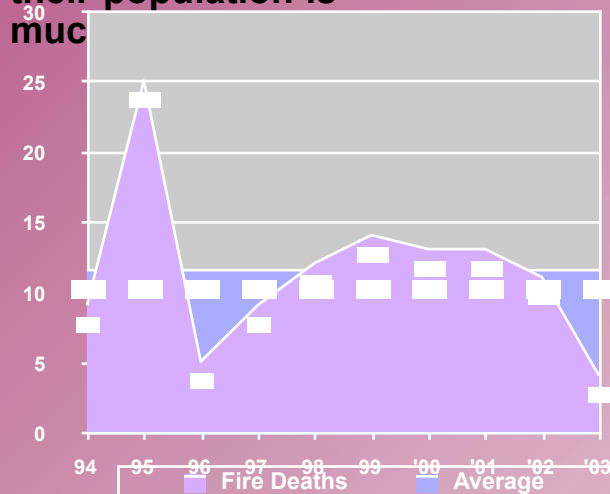
PUBLIC EDUCATION

Lieutenant Tyrone Fornest

The Public Education Bureau continues its goal to educate the general public about fire prevention and safety. We want the fire awareness and safety message to permeate our community and become second nature for all of us. We have provided comprehensive presentations and programs to educate the citizens about fire safety issues, primarily for school aged children. This has included numerous Safety Talks, FLASH (Fire Learning And Safety House) presentations, fire station tours, apparatus Show-and-Tells, school visits, the Citizen's Fire Academy, Fire Prevention Month activities, the distribution of thousands of informational brochures, and even a prize-winning poster contest.

We partnered with many local agencies such as the American Red Cross, UAB Burn Center, and Foster Parents of Alabama. We focused more on our senior citizens this year, recognizing that their population is steadily increasing as people are living

We partnered with many local agencies such as the American Red Cross, UAB Burn Center, and Foster Parents of Alabama. We focused more on our senior citizens this year, recognizing that their population is steadily increasing as people are living



The year 2003 was indeed monumental in that we recorded the City of Birmingham's lowest number of fire fatalities in history, four. [Over the past ten (10) years we have seen an average of 12 deaths annually.] We attribute this outstanding record to an aggressive public education effort and the impact of the *"Get Alarmed Birmingham"* campaign. This fire prevention program was funded in part by local corporate sponsors: Alabama Power, State Farm Insurance, and the National Bank of Commerce. The program provides free smoke detectors for citizens of the City of Birmingham upon request. We were able

PUBLIC EDUCATION



to purchase 30,691 smoke detectors for distribution. To date, we have distributed 15,764 of these detectors. Nationally, nearly 94% of homes have smoke detectors. Locally, strides, even leaps, have been made to canvas the community, determine the need, and distribute these detectors accordingly. Although four lives lost are still too many, we continue our effort to achieve an ultimate and historic low of zero. We realize that this effort will entail saturating the media, public and private organizations, civic groups, schools, churches, and neighborhoods with the fire prevention and safety message.

In 2003, our station personnel delivered 319 scheduled presentations and countless other impromptu talks and tours. Public Education presentations, talks, media and other events amounted to 195. Although accurate figures are hard to calculate, we estimate that nearly 1 million people throughout the Birmingham metropolitan area (which includes Jefferson, Shelby, St. Clair, Blount, and Walker counties) and surrounding counties such as Tuscaloosa, Talladega, and Clay are represented. These figures are partly media marketing projections coupled with predetermined participation numbers provided by groups requesting fire department presentations. We anticipate recording an even prouder list of achievements as we impact the lives of the citizens of Birmingham and surrounding areas with Excellence through Service.



Fire
Prevention
Month Kick-off
Event
October 2003

TRAINING & SAFETY DIVISION

Battalion Chief Reginald Anderson

Training of our personnel this past year has focused on the increasing threats to civilian population by terrorist elements. We conducted over 41,500 hours of training. In addition to the Training/Safety Division, other organizations were actively involved in providing training to department personnel including City Personnel, the Jefferson County Personnel Board and Firefighter Local 117. This collaboration with other organizations is essential in ensuring that department personnel receive as much training in diverse areas as possible. The training course included classes such as Apparatus Operator Pumper, Apparatus Operator Aerial, Swift Water Awareness, Hazardous Materials Technician, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Introduction to Technical Rescue, Firefighter II, Emergency Medical Technician, CPR and EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Obstacle Course). Many new courses were conducted including Apparatus Operations, Incident Management (using the new Fire Attack program), and a Cable TV network access training program coordinated by the Public Information Officer.

The Training/Safety Division took the initial lead role in implementing the new PARS (Touch-N-Track) accountability system. Department officers were trained in the functional operations of this new system, individual Personal Identification Badges (PIB) were distributed to all personnel, a corresponding policy was drafted, and training literature and video tapes were distributed to aid company officers in training their personnel on the new system.

The Training/Safety Division continued the process of EMT credentialing in the year 2003. This activity will be a continuous process that will require extensive planning, coordinating, training and cooperation. Approximately 90 department personnel were credentialed in EMT-Paramedics to conclude this cycle of EMT credentialing. We will begin this credential effort again next year.

The Safety Bureau plays a major role in this Department. Aside from assuring safe procedures for station level training and during recruit school, the Safety Bureau also coordinates the annual Job Task and Fit Check evaluations. These annual evaluations involve scheduling and testing of Department personnel and are useful in identifying individuals who may require further physical and/or medical assessment. In 2003, approximately 1,000 department personnel were tested and evaluated during Fit Check and Job Task combined. The Safety Bureau conducted SCBA Fit testing of all department personnel for proper facemask fit. After proper fit is achieved, each person is assigned an individual SCBA face mask. This process will be conducted annually. The Safety Bureau investigated 63 vehicle accidents, 162 injuries, 58 exposures incidents involving 218 personnel, completed and processed 731 PPE requests. The Safety Bureau also assisted the University of Alabama's Nursing Education Department in coordinating the annual medical screening for the Department.

The Training/Safety Division began a Firefighter Recruit School this year. This 10-week FFI/II course School was conducted for 30 recruits already certified as EMT's. Two of these recruits were from Centerpoint Fire Department. A second Recruit School, consisting of a 15-week FFI, FFII and EMT courses is scheduled to begin in January 2004 for approximately 33 recruits. Both classes will graduate in 2004.

The Training/Safety Division continues to evaluate, review and update training equipment and text materials. One of the Division's goals is to be fully equipped with the most current training resources and technologies. The Training/Safety Division is committed to ensuring our personnel exceed training standards in all areas of emergency response.



Captain Roy A. Willis

Fire Communications is the first step in the mitigation of an emergency incident. Generally a Public Safety Dispatcher is the public's first contact has any contact with during an emergency. It is our responsibility to obtain all the pertinent information required to dispatch the correct response to each incident in a timely manner. Fire Communications is also responsible for providing additional support services as requested by line and staff personnel. Additionally, Fire Communications maintains the constant status of emergency apparatus/equipment and personnel availability along with hard copy and audio records of emergency and non-emergency calls for assistance.

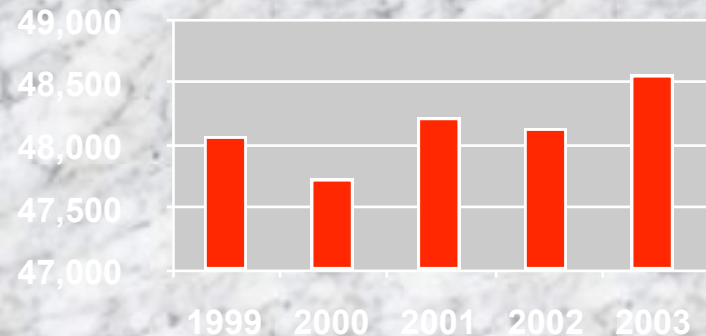
Fire Communications presently has 17 Public Safety Dispatcher II positions, 5 Public Safety Dispatcher III positions, and one (1) Database Technician position. During 2003 there was a shortage in personnel in both the PSD II and PSD III positions created through retirement, transfers, and other separations from service. In December 2003, two PSD III provisional appointments were made and five new PSD II were hired. This increased staffing level of the PSD III positions to 4 and the PSD II positions to 16. By year's end one PSD II and one provisional PSD III transferred to Operations creating a final staffing level of 15 PSD II's and 3 PSD II's, which is supplemented with the use of temporary employees and limited duty firefighters.

Advances in technology have played a vital role in the operations of Fire Communications over the past few years. These advances have allowed BFRS to move forward with information storage and access in ways that were not available to us just a few short years ago. The upgrade of our distribution network and the implementation and use of Intergraph CAD and Sunpro RMS have provided us with ways to track, gather and provide information like never before. The planned future use of automatic vehicle locators will also provide the infrastructure to help reduce response times to emergencies, thereby enhancing the overall service we currently provide to the City of Birmingham residents and visitors.

The City of Birmingham is upgrading our radio system to a Motorola 800 MHz trunked system with contracts signed in June 2003. Site preparation for towers and equipment purchases has continued since August 2003 and the completion date is expected in Fall 2004. The new radio system is the latest technology available to Public Safety organizations and is APCO 25 compliant. Being APCO 25 compliant allows smoother interoperability with other jurisdictions when their communication systems are upgraded to meet today's standards. Similar systems are used nationwide

by other fire departments and police departments with great success.

In the Fall of 2003 Fire Communications, working in conjunction with the Birmingham Mayor's office, the Department of Public Works, and Birmingham Police Department, saw the start-up of this regions only 311, non-emergency, communications center. The 311 communications system provides the citizens of Birmingham an avenue to report non-emergency incidents without using the emergency response system. This will allow Fire Communications dispatchers to operate more effectively and efficiently while receiving and dispatching emergency responses.



EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE TRANSPORT DATA (5-YEAR COMPARISON)

STATISTICS	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
FIRE SERVICE PROVIDED TRANSPORT					
TOTAL	17,509	19,732	20,799	20,764	20,847
\$TOTAL	2,123,464	2,586,307	2,821,805	2,638,835	2,790,194

SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS (5-YEAR COMPARISON)

REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
ANNUAL	48,077	47,750	48,239	48,140	48,568
MONTHLY	4,006	3,979	4,020	4,012	4,047
WEEKLY	925	918	928	926	934
DAILY	132	130	132	132	133
REPRESENTATIVE PERCENTAGES					
EMS CALLS	77.9	77.2	78.2	79.7	80.6
ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT (ALS)	51.4	53.4	55.1	55.9	58.4
BASIC LIFE SUPPORT (BLS)	26.5	23.8	23.2	23.8	22.1
FIRE AND MISC. CALLS	22.1	22.8	21.8	20.3	19.5

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE RESPONSE (5-YEAR COMPARISON)

FIRE SERVICE PROVIDED	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
EMS					
ALS	24,815	25,494	26,574	26,922	28,350
BLS	12,748	11,360	11,171	11,446	10,730
FIRE-RELATED EMS	94	67	83	38	58
TRANSPORTS	17,660	19,540	20,700	20,764	20,162

Jim Chambers, Logistics Coordinator

The Logistics Bureau fills an important niche in the day-to-day operations of this Department. This Bureau is responsible for all capital assets, i.e. mobile equipment and buildings, as well as ensuring that all personnel are properly and safely attired. All assets are continuously monitored to ensure that they will meet the expectations of this Department.

Replacement of older equipment allows this Department to better respond to the needs of the citizens of Birmingham. During the past year, this Department has ordered or accepted delivery of fifteen (15) new Rescue Units, two (2) new Brush Fire Trucks, one (1) new Pumper, and one (1) articulating Ladder Truck. In addition, individual SCBA face pieces and NFPA compliant jackets were purchased for each firefighter. A new Personnel Accountability System and burglar bar cutters were purchased and placed on each front line apparatus.

Funding was made available this year to implement capital construction and maintenance projects. The construction of the Roosevelt City Fire Station has been awarded. The construction of the new Fitness Center is complete. Several stations have received replacement roofs. Bids have been received on ramp repairs and roof replacement at other stations.